

Know Your Voting Rights in San Mateo County

California's 2020 General Election



Ballots Mailed to All Registered Voters: **Starting October 5, 2020**

Ballot Drop Boxes & Early Vote Centers Open: **Monday, October 5, 2020**

Registration Deadline: **Monday, October 19, 2020**

All In-Person Vote Centers Are Open: **Saturday, October 31, 2020 - Tuesday, November 3, 2020**

San Mateo County Elections Office: 650-312-5222

Getting Ready to Vote

To vote in an election, you must first register to vote! You can register if you are:

- a U.S. citizen;
- a resident of California;
- will be 18 years or older on Election Day;
- not currently in prison or on parole for the conviction of a felony; and
- not found by a court to be “mentally incompetent.”

Already Registered?

Check and update your voter registration information. Use voterstatus.sos.ca.gov to:

- ✓ Confirm your mailing address
- ✓ Add or update an email address to get timely information from your county elections office
- ✓ Indicate your preferred language to get translated materials if they are available in your area

Want to Register?

Through **Monday, October 19th** you can register:

- online at registertovote.ca.gov;
- at the DMV, post office, library, or your county elections office; or
- by calling the county elections office at 888-762-8683 to request a voter registration form, which must be in the mail by October 19th. No stamp needed!

What If I Miss the Voter Registration Deadline?

No problem!

Option 1: You can go to the county elections office or any vote center in your county to use “same-day voter registration” to register and vote then. You’ll get a voter registration form and ballot to complete on the spot.

Option 2: If you are not registered to vote and cannot go to the elections office or a vote center, contact the county elections office to ask how you can register and vote remotely by using “Remote Accessible Vote-by-Mail.

How to Vote? You Have Options!

VOTE FROM HOME

If you register by October 19th, you will automatically receive a ballot in the **mail** with instructions on how to fill it out and return it.

You can:

1. Send your ballot by mail -- no stamp needed!
 - Remember to sign and date your ballot envelope.
 - Make sure your ballot is post-marked on or before Election Day.
2. Drop it off at one of many official ballot “drop boxes” located throughout the county or at a vote center -- again, no stamp needed! There are 24-hour secure ballot drop boxes that will be open starting October 5, through November 3rd until 8pm.

VOTE IN PERSON

If you prefer to vote in person, you can! Early voting and same-day registration are available at your county elections office and at vote centers.

Early vote centers at the San Mateo County elections office, the Redwood City County Clerk office, and the South San Francisco Main Library will be open starting October 5. Check smcacre.org/vote-center-hours-locations for addresses and hours.

You can vote at any vote center in the county. All vote centers will be open from **Saturday, October 31, 2020 through Tuesday, November 3, 2020**. You will receive information about vote center locations and

hours by mail, or you can go to smcacre.org/vote/all to find vote centers near your location.

On Election Day, vote centers will be open from **7 a.m. to 8 p.m. As long as you are in line by 8pm, you will be able to cast your vote.**

Walk into any vote center and give them your name and address to receive a ballot. If you prefer voting in a non-English language, ask if they have any materials in that language and if any of the vote center workers speak that language.

Will There Be Public Health Protections?

Yes. Vote center staff will wear masks and follow public health guidelines, and will set up vote centers to allow for physical distancing. Voters must comply with state and local public health requirements, including wearing a face covering and maintaining physical distancing.

Do I Need to Show My ID When Voting?

In almost all instances, no. You only need to show documents if you are voting for the first time and you did not include your driver's license number, state ID number, OR Social Security Number when you registered to vote. If this is the case, many documents will work. Call your elections office in advance if you are concerned.

Can I Bring Someone to Help Me Vote?

Yes. California law allows you to bring up to two people to help you vote in person, as long as they do not represent your employer or your union. Bring a family member or friend.

What If I Run Into Problems While Voting?

Do not give up! **Ask to use same-day voter registration** to re-register and vote. If you are unable to do so for some reason, **ask for a provisional ballot**, which is a ballot that will be counted after Election Day if elections officials confirm your eligibility.

Or, call an Election Day voter protection hotline:

866-OUR-VOTE (866-687-8683) for assistance in English.

888-API-VOTE (888-274-8683) for assistance in English, Mandarin, Cantonese, Vietnamese, Korean, Bengali, Urdu, Hindi, and Tagalog.

888-Ve-Y-Vota (888-839-8682) NALEO Educational Fund toll-free bilingual English-Spanish hotline.

Will I Be Able to Vote in Languages Other than English?

Yes! If you prefer to vote in Chinese or Spanish, translated ballots that you can vote on and other resources are available. If you speak Korean, Tagalog, Burmese, Hindi, or Japanese, then translated “facsimile” ballots may be available.

If you are voting from home and want translated ballots or other resources, call the county elections office at 888-762-8683 or email registrar@smcacre.org.

If you are voting in person, ask the vote center workers for translated ballots. There may be bilingual poll workers available to help you as well.

You can find a handout on language access in voting that explains more at:

advancingjustice-alc.org/know-your-voting-rights/.